

Remarks

In the present response, four claims (16, 31, 44, 45) are amended; and three claims (19, 34, 46) are canceled. The amendments and cancellations are made to place this application in condition for allowance based on allowed subject matter.

I. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 16, 18, 20-23, 31, 36, 45, 47, 49 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,289,589 (Bingham). These rejections are moot since the claims are amended to place this application in condition for allowance. Specifically, independent claim 16 is amended to include the elements of allowed dependent claim 19. Independent claim 31 is amended to include the elements of allowed dependent claim 34. Independent claim 45 is amended to include the elements of allowed dependent claim 46.

II. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 112

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 44 is amended to depend from claim 38.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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